REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 11, 15-17 and 19-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15 and 19 are amended, and claim 18 is canceled. Support for amended claim 15 may be found in the original specification, for example, at page 4, line 1 through page 5, line 36. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-4, 6, 10, 11 and 22-28 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Krishnamurthy in the June 8, 2007 interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 15 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,457,949 ("Coulter") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,755,816 ("Collins"); and claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Coulter in view of Collins, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,695,602 ("Crosby"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

None of the applied references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a non-return valve including a hollow sealing piston received in a valve housing and biased against a valve seat by means of a spring in a basic position, so that in the basic position a pressure medium connection between two working ports in a direction of flow therethrough is closed, and wherein the sealing piston is adapted for a flow therethrough and includes a multiplicity of recesses on an outer periphery, so that the sealing piston is guided in a longitudinal bore by axial webs delimiting the recesses from each other, wherein the guide projections extend forward, to between the star configuration of bores, from an annular collar of the sealing

piston, and wherein the axial webs extend rearward from the annular collar, as recited in claim 15.

Coulter

Coulter merely describes that a surface of a portion 24 of a recess adjacent to an end 22 is threaded, and this interiorly threaded portion engages an exteriorly threaded cylindrical end 26 of a part 18 to secure parts 16 and 18 (see column 3, lines 9-13). Nowhere does Coulter teach or suggest a multiplicity of recesses on an outer periphery so that a sealing piston is guided in a longitudinal bore by axial webs delimiting the recesses from each other, as required in claim 15. The threaded recess described in Coulter is not a multiplicity of recesses, it is one recess. Further, the threaded recess in Coulter is not guided by axial webs. Thus, Coulter fails to teach or suggest a multiplicity of recesses on an outer periphery, so that the sealing piston is guided in a longitudinal bore by axial webs delimiting the recesses from each other.

Further, Coulter fails to teach or suggest a non-return valve wherein guide projections extend forward, to between a star configuration of bores, from an annular collar of a sealing piston, and wherein axial webs extend rearward from the annular collar, as also recited in claim 15. Placing the alleged recesses (recess portion 24) of Collins on the periphery of guide 56 in Coulter would at best provide recesses in the same location as the current slots (alleged bores) disclosed in Coulter. However, claim 15 requires the guide projections to be separated from the recesses by an annular collar, with each extending in the opposite direction from the other.

Furthermore, not only does Coulter fail to teach or suggest the non-return valve as claimed, but Coulter fails to teach or suggest the advantages of such configuration, such as improved guidance, reinforcement and reduced hysteresis (see page 2, lines 18-30).

Collins

The Patent Office relies on Collins as allegedly disclosing a multiplicity of bores with guide projections formed between the bores, associated with the sealing piston. However, even if Collins is relied on for disclosing this feature, Collins fails to cure the deficiencies of Coulter, in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of claim 15. In particular, a sealing piston that is a hollow piston adapted for a flow therethrough and a multiplicity of recesses on an outer periphery, so that the sealing piston is guided in a longitudinal bore by axial webs delimiting the recesses from each other, wherein the guide projections extend forward, to between the star configuration of bores, from an annular collar of the sealing piston, and wherein the axial webs extend rearward from the annular collar, as recited in claim 15.

Crosby

Crosby fails to cure the deficiencies of Coulter and Collins as detailed above. Specifically, like Coulter and Collins, Crosby fails to disclose or render obvious the features of independent claim 15, including a sealing piston that is a hollow piston adapted for a flow therethrough and a multiplicity of recesses on an outer periphery, so that the sealing piston is guided in a longitudinal bore by axial webs delimiting the recesses from each other, wherein the guide projections extend forward, to between the star configuration of bores, from an annular collar of the sealing piston, and wherein the axial webs extend rearward from the annular collar, as recited in claim 15.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 15, and dependent claims thereof, are patentable over the applied references. Thus, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 10, 11, 15-17 and 19-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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